



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: I have a question about RCP's administering inhaled aerosolized Morphine Sulfate to terminally ill and hospice patients. For continuity of care it would seem the RCP is the one to administer this medication. The number of patients receiving and benefiting from this type of therapy is increasing. In many hospitals, nursing does not do aerosol therapy. With RCP's providing home health services, it would provide improved care and better utilize the RCP expertise and knowledge.

Response: The function of administering aerosolized morphine to terminally ill patients as ordered by a Physician or Surgeon is definitely within the scope of practice of a licensed practitioner. However, there are additional regulations that govern controlled substances. I would recommend that you consult with the Department of Health Services to ensure you are meeting all the required regulations. Their contact information is provided below for your convenience:

Department of Health Services
714/ 744 P Street,
Sacramento CA, 95814
(916) 445-4171

Reference # 2002-C-49

This determination does not constitute a declaratory decision under the comprehensive provisions of Government Code sections 11465.10 - 11465.70.